

Remarks

Entry of this Amendment prior to consideration of this Application on the merits is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1 and 3-57 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7, 13, 17, 20, 25, 28, 36, 39, 44, 50, 54, 55, and 57 being the independent claims. Claim 2 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Support for the Amendments to the Claims

Support for amended claim 1 can be found in the specification, *inter alia*, in paragraph 135 and in originally filed claims 1 and 2.

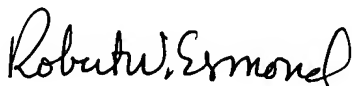
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule engineered to comprise all or a portion of at least two Ter-sites, wherein the nucleic acid comprises an origin of replication and the Ter-sites are arranged with respect to the origin of replication such that the sequence between the two Ter-sites is not replicated in a host cell that expresses a replication termination protein.

Claim 2 is canceled.